

KPUD Hires New Tree Trimmer Jim Gast

Jim Gast is the newest addition to Klickitat PUD's tree-trimming crew.

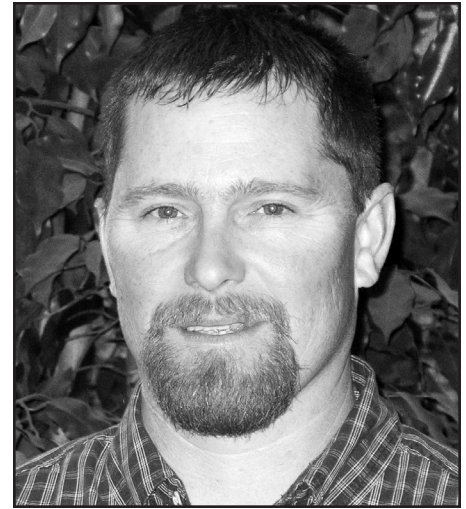
Jim was hired March 31 and comes to us from Trees Inc., where he gained experience as a foreman.

Before that job, Jim worked at Asplundh Tree Expert Co., where

he was an apprentice tree trimmer and earned the title of journeyman.

When Jim isn't working, he enjoys attending church with his wife, Sine, and his five children.

He also enjoys hunting and fishing, and is excited to be moving his family to Klickitat County. ■



Jim Gast

Got An Old Cell Phone? Trout Lake School Can Put It to Good Use

By John Elyard

Have a cell phone lying around not being used? Cash it in on an education program!

Trout Lake is a unique rural community in the foothills of the Eastern Cascades. Historically, the base of the community has been dairy farming and logging. As in most rural communities, this base is changing, but what hasn't changed in Trout Lake is the community's strong support for its K-12 public school.

As a school and community, we have much to celebrate:

- A beautiful school facility in what is one of the most scenic and beautiful valleys in the state of Washington. Most children in the state do not have an environment that is as safe and wonderful in which to learn.
- Great students who are excelling both academically and in extra-curricular activities.

• A dedicated staff committed to school improvement and reform.

• Supportive parents who want the best for their children.

As a school district, we try to implement programs, trips, curriculum and challenges above and beyond what is normally done in other districts throughout the state. Implementing these programs, trips, curriculum and activities requires funding, which is often hard to come by in our economy.

As a science teacher who teaches from grades seven through 10, I am constantly striving to buy or acquire materials that are not within our budget. This year, I am collecting used cell phones that are no longer



needed by the owner, but may sit in a drawer because they don't want to throw them away.

I collect the cell phones, delete any information on them and send them to a company that pays cash for the phones to nonprofit organizations. They refurbish the phones.

I have collected hundreds of dollars this year through this unique fundraiser, allowing the purchase of science materials we could not normally buy.

I ask that you recycle your old cell phones by dropping them off in the collection boxes located at either of the Klickitat PUD offices or at either of the Riverview Bank branches in Goldendale or White Salmon.

We appreciate your support. Watch for an update on the progress of this program in a future Ruralite edition. ■

John Elyard is a science teacher for the Trout Lake School District.